GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:508
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
FM RADIO SERVICE
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether FM radio services are not available in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to start FM Services at places where it is not available including Amreli region of Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (ADDITIONAL CHARGE)(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. At present, only 171 FM transmitters of All India Radio (AIR) are functioning in the country covering only 24.56% by area and 35.76% by population of the country. State-wise details of coverage are at Annexure. In addition 241 private FM channels are also in operation in different parts of the country.

(c), (d) & (e) Yes, Sir. Upgradation of 27 existing FM stations & installation of 151 new FM stations of AIR (including 100 numbers of 100 watt FM transmitters in North Eastern Region) for improvement of FM coverage in the country have been approved. At present there is no proposal to start AIR FM service at Amreli, Gujarat due to constraint of funds and manpower. The recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding expansion of FM radio broadcasting through private agencies is under consideration of the Government.